REMARKS

The Office Action, mailed December 15, 2006, considered and rejected claims 88-142. Claims 88-142 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Huang* (U.S. Patent No. 6,571,245) in view of *Yagi* (U.S. Publ. No. 2002/0059288).[1]

As discussed with the Examiner, claims 88-142 have been cancelled and claims 143-191 have been added. Accordingly, following this paper, claims 143-191 are pending, of which claims 143, 164, 189 and 190 are the only independent claims at issue. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the original application and the originally filed claims.

As discussed with the Examiner, and as reflected in the above claim listing, the claims are generally directed to methods, user-interfaces, computer readable media, and systems for allowing a user to easily find and select a desired resource without the user being aware of the source location of the resource. As reflected in independent claim 143, for instance, a user interface is provided which includes a top-level page which has a hierarchical links region that has a plurality of hierarchical categories therein. The hierarchical categories are fully displayed when the top-level page is initiated, and each of the displayed hierarchical categories includes a higher level category heading and a lower level list of resources. The category heading identifies a relationship between each of the resources, and has a link to a category page which includes links to resources which are related according to the relationship identified by the category heading. The relationship between the resources, whether in the list or on the category page, is unrelated to the source location where the resources can be found, and each of the items in the list further includes a link by which a desired resource can be accessed.

Independent claim 164 recites a method for allowing a user to easily find and select a resource, which includes registering local and remote resources at the computing system and displaying a user interface to access the resources, the user interface generally corresponding to the method of claim 143. Independent claim 189 recites a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions to implement the method of claim 164, and claim 190 recites a

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[1] Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

computing system that has a processing unit which can access and execute computer executable instructions to display a user interface generally corresponding to the user interface of claim 143.

As discussed with the Examiner, each of the claims are new and have not been previously considered by the Examiner. Nevertheless, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims are patentable over the cited references. Reconsideration of the pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited *Huang* and *Yagi* references, whether alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of the pending claims. For instance, among other things, *Huang* and *Yagi* fail to disclose or suggest a user interface in which, at a top-level page, a plurality of hierarchical categories are displayed when the user interface is initiated and which each include: (a) a higher-level category heading linking to a lower-level category page having resources available thereon; and (b) a list of resources which are related according to a relationship which is unrelated to a source location of the resources, particularly as recited in combination with the other claim elements.

For example, *Huang* discloses a system in which a network of servers are coupled to the Internet, and a virtual desktop is used to access resources available on the network of servers. (Abstract). For example, the virtual desktop, can be presented to the user as a Web page within a browser window. (Abstract; Col. 6, ll. 40-42; Fig. 3). Within the browser is a display area which includes the virtual desktop for the user. (Col. 6, ll. 58-60). The virtual desktop includes icons for applications available to the user, icons for folders and files, and icons for other features such as news, bookmarks, address books, calendars, to do lists, customization tools, storage, and trash. (Col. 6, ll. 58-66). When a folder on the virtual desktop is selected by the user, a window then opens up which identifies the contents of the folder. (Col. 6, ln. 65 to Col. 7, ln. 1; Fig. 3).

Accordingly, *Huang* discloses a web page which, when started, displays a virtual desktop with a variety of icons thereon. Thereafter, folders may be individually opened, and the contents displayed within windows of the virtual desktop, when the user selects a particular server. Thus, when the virtual desktop is initially presented, the icons are displayed, without any headings or

relationships. Thereafter, upon selection by a user, a folder (e.g., folder 350a in Figure 3) can be opened by a user to show the contents of the folder. In other words, in contrast to the claimed invention, in which a plurality of hierarchical categories are displayed at the time the user interface is initiated and which each include a heading and a corresponding lower-tier list of resources which are related by a relationship unrelated to source location, *Huang* discloses that at the time the user interface is displayed: (a) a plurality of icons are displayed which are each independent and have no relationship between them; and (b) that folders can be opened, upon later user selection, to display the contents therein. Thus, *Huang* is directly contrary to, and teaches away from the present invention in at least two regards. First, *Huang* teaches that related files (e.g., files in the same folder) are displayed upon user selection, rather than at the initial display of the user interface, as claimed in combination with the other claim elements. Second, when related files are displayed, they are displayed only with other files located in the same folder, such that the association between the files is one of location, and is not unrelated to source location as claimed in combination with the other claim elements.

Applicant further submits that the *Yagi* reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Huang*. By way of background, *Yagi* discloses a file handling system designed to improve the efficiency of file selection in a GUI environment. (Abstract.). For instance, *Yagi* discloses a file selection control screen in which a user can select a file to be opened. (¶ 81). As disclosed in *Yagi*, a separate settings page can be used to specify a user's preferences for the file selection control screen. (¶ 83). These settings may include allowing a user to specify certain files and folders which should always be displayed in the file selection control screen. (¶¶ 66, 67, 76, 83; Figs. 4B, 7B). The files are then identified in a window under the heading "Prespecified files", and the folders are identified in a window under the heading "Prespecified folders." (¶ 83; Fig. 7B). Additional windows for recently accessed files and folders can also be included. (¶ 83; Fig. 7B). If a user desires a file in such a window, the user can select the file to move the name of the file to a File Name field, and the file can be opened by selecting an Open button. (¶ 84).

Accordingly, *Yagi* discloses that files and folders can be categorized as either prespecified or as recently accessed and displayed in a corresponding window of a file selection control screen that is activated. *Yagi* fails, however, to disclose any category heading that

identifies an relationship between resources listed under the heading, and which is selectable to access a category page which includes files that organized by a relationship unrelated to source location, as cited in combination with the other claim elements. Indeed, the headings of the Prespecified and Most Recently Used files and folders in *Yagi* do not appear to have any link associated therewith. Moreover, inasmuch as the files/folders listed in the associated window include all of the files associated with that heading, there appears to be no reason to open any separate category page by using a link associated with the heading.

Thus, *Huang* appears to disclose that an icon is selected to open a list of files within the folder of the icon, and *Yagi* discloses that the files associated with a heading are automatically loaded in a window. Thus, *Yagi* and *Huang* disclose the exact opposite in that in *Yagi* a list under a heading is automatically populated, while *Huang* discloses that a list under a heading (e.g. Folder A) is populated only after user selection. Inasmuch as these are directly contrary teachings, it would thus also be impossible to combine the references. Nevertheless, even were the references considered in combination, in each instance, a heading or folder name is only associated a single time with a list of files/folders, and does not include any link to a second page of resources, as is claimed in combination with the other recited references. In other words, *Yagi* and *Huang* disclose, at most, that a header is associated with a list of associated files/folders, but do not disclose a second category page of resources which is linked to the header.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicant reserves the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicant specifically requests that the Examiner provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required motivation or suggestion to combine the relied upon notice with the other art of record.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (801)533-9800.

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Respectfully submitted,

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